

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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EUR/WE:EBEIGEL (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183037

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAIR, ASEC, GR

SUBJECT:SECURITY AT ATHENS AIRPORT

REF: A. ATHENS 7414, 7004 AND 6946

B. STATE 178568 AND 169836

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C. PARIS 20108

1. IN RESPONSE TO ATHENS 6946, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONSIDERING THE APPROPRIATENESS AND FEASIBILITY OF SOME JOINT ACTION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GREEKS THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE LAXITY OF SECURITY AT ATHENS AIRPORT. WE HAVE IN MIND A JOINT DEMARCHE IN ATHENS BY THE AMBASSADORS OF WESTERN COUNTRIES WHOSE AIRLINES ARE MAJOR AIRPORT USERS. EACH AMBASSADOR WOULD LEAVE AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH CALLS ON THE GOG TO COOPERATE WITH INDIVIDUAL AIRLINES, THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA), AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT ATHENS AIRPORT.

2. MEANWHILE, AN IATA TEAM COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF QANTAS, TWA, AND BRITISH AIRWAYS PLANS TO CONDUCT AN AIRPORT SECURITY SURVEY OF ATHENS AIRPORT DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 5-9. JOHN STEELE, TWA CORPORATE SECURITY DIRECTOR

AND MEMBER IATA SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, INFORMED FAA THAT RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF IATA WITH THE AIRPORT MANAGER ATHENS APPEAR TO BE PRODUCTIVE.

3. AS A RESULT OF FAA DISCUSSIONS WITH STEELE, IT APPEARS INAPPROPRIATE TO SEND AN FAA AVIATION SECURITY TEAM TO GREECE AT THE PRESENT TIME. SUCH A VISIT MIGHT CONFLICT WITH IATA EFFORTS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE FAA TEAM VISIT, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM LEADER VISIT ATHENS FOLLOWING THE SECURITY SURVEYS WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED IN EGYPT AND MOROCCO.

4. EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON PROPOSALS IN PARAS 1 AND 3 WOULD BE WELCOME.

ROBINSON

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NNN

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